

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 09695 190853Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 /071 W  
-----088087 200557Z /10

R 190723Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 246  
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JAKARTA 9695

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, ID  
SUBJECT: SAWITO SENTENCED TO EIGHT YEARS

REF: JAKARTA 5683

1. THE TRIAL OF SAWITO KARTOWIBOWO FOR CONSPIRING TO OVERTHROW PRESIDENT SUHARTO CONCLUDED JULY 19 AFTER 28 SESSIONS COVERING NINE MONTHS. CENTRAL JAKARTA STATE COURT HANDED DOWN A SENTENCE OF EIGHT YEARS MINUS TIME ALREADY SPENT IN DETENTION (SINCE SEPTEMBER 1976). THE PROSECUTION HAD DEMANDED A SENTENCE OF 20 YEARS.

2. THE JUDGES SAID SAWITO HAD BEEN PROVEN GUILTY OF SUBVERSION, UNDERMINING GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY, SPREADING LIES, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES APT TO CAUSE DISSENSION IN THE COMMUNITY. THEY CITED AS AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES HIS REFUSAL TO ANSWER CERTAIN QUESTIONS, HIS BEHAVIOR IN PRETENDING TO BE SPIRITUALLY INSPIRED, HIS BETRAYAL OF HIS OATH AS AN OFFICIAL (DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE), HIS ATTEMPTS TO DRAG THE NAMES OF OTHER PEOPLE INTO THE CASE, AND HIS LACK OF REPEN-  
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TANCE. IN HIS FAVOR, THEY SAID, WERE HIS PREVIOUS CLEAN RECORD AND HIS RELATIVELY YOUNG AGE (46).

3. BOTH SAWITO AND THE PROSECUTOR IMMEDIATELY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD APPEAL THE SENTENCE. SAWITO, DEBONAIR AS USUAL, WARMLY GREETED HIS SUPPORTERS IN THE COURTROOM AFTER LODGING A FINAL COMPLAINT AGAINST THE PROSECUTOR FOR

ALLEGEDLY SUPPRESSING CERTAIN PIECES OF EVIDENCE.

4. COMMENT: THE SENTENCE IS LIGHTER THAN EXPECTED BUT  
COULD GO EITHER WAY ON APPEAL. THE EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY  
GIVEN THIS CASE REFLECTS GOI POLICY OF COUNTERING SAWITO'S  
CONSPIRACY THROUGH OPEN, LEGAL PROCEDURES.  
GARDNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COURT DECISIONS, POLITICAL PRISONERS  
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**Draft Date:** 19 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978JAKART09695  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** SAWITO SENTENCED TO EIGHT YEARS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014